

Section Q: Coordination

The intent of the Coordination standard in the Proposition 84/1E Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Guidelines is to ensure that Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs):

- Coordinate their activities with local agencies and stakeholders to avoid conflict within the region and to best utilize resources;
- Are aware of adjacent planning efforts and are coordinating with adjacent RWMGs; and
- Are aware of state, federal, and local agency resources and roles in the implementation of their plans and projects.

This section describes how the IRWM planning effort in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region addresses this Coordination standard.

Q.1 COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE IRWM REGION

The coordination of IRWM-related activities and efforts between the RWMG and project proponents and stakeholders in the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning region occurs in several ways. The Greater Monterey County IRWM website (<http://www.greatermontereyirwmp.org/>) is the “go to” place for project proponents and stakeholders to learn about the IRWM planning effort, read the latest news, review projects that are included in the IRWM Plan, and find resources about related efforts in the region, including other Central Coast area IRWM Plans. In addition, the IRWM Plan Coordinator sends email notices to all stakeholders and project proponents whenever anything “newsworthy” occurs, such as milestone decisions for the IRWM Plan or planning process, solicitation of new projects for the IRWM Plan, the ranking of implementation projects for inclusion in the Plan, or the release of new IRWM Program Guidelines or Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs).

Secondly, the RWMG has been working with the Central Coast Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to develop and utilize a new database as a way to track water resource projects within the Greater Monterey County region. The Conservation Action Tracker database, described in the Plan Performance and Monitoring Section of this IRWM Plan, is a data system for tracking land-use management improvements in the Central Coast region. It is an online tool that will allow project proponents to register and update information on conservation projects across the region in order to track efforts and improve stakeholders’ ability to evaluate collective impacts and effectiveness. The Conservation Action Tracker is being implemented by the Central Coast RCDs and project partners of the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan.

Finally, a type of “project coordination” occurs during each new IRWM Plan project solicitation. The Project Review Committee reviews each and every project (both implementation projects and concept proposals) for potential integration opportunities, with an aim of combining discrete project elements or combining entire projects to create regional programs. Through the integration process, the RWMG helps coordinate activities within the IRWM planning region in order to avoid redundancies, increase efficiencies, and to create projects with multiple benefits. For future IRWM Plan project solicitations, the RWMG is considering the idea of hosting informal “mixers” for project proponents and other stakeholders where they can discuss current projects and brainstorm new project ideas. The concept behind the mixers is to bring individuals together in a casual setting that is conducive to “mingling” and an easy exchange of ideas. The intent is to increase integration of projects and to enhance opportunities for coordination of activities, collaboration, and partnerships throughout the region.

Q.2 COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING IRWM REGIONS

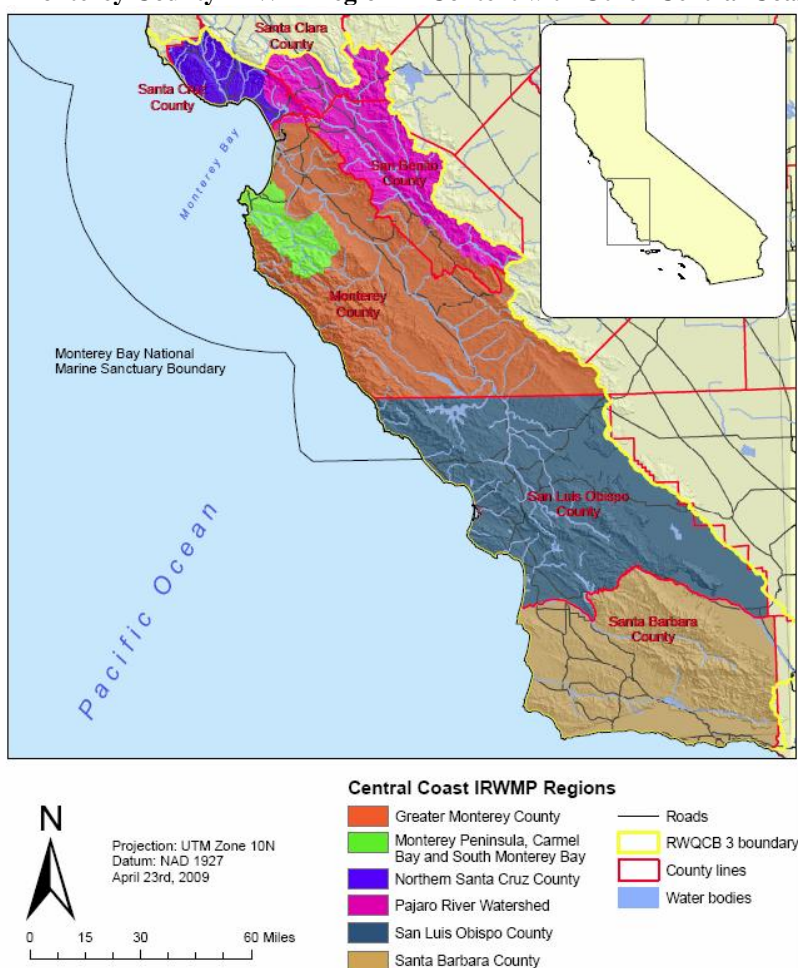
Q.2.1 IRWM Regions on the Central Coast

Six IRWM Plans have been developed in the Central Coast IRWM Funding Area:

- Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM Plan
- Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Plan
- Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan
- Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM Plan
- San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan
- Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Plan

Each of the six Central Coast IRWM regions was determined and deemed appropriate for IRWM planning based on various factors—including watersheds, groundwater basins, jurisdictional boundaries, existing partnerships, historical planning efforts, and other factors—that made each regional alignment the most logical for IRWM planning and coordination. These regional boundaries were developed in consultation with the water resource agencies and organizations in each of the six counties to coordinate and avoid conflicts between the IRWM regions. Figure Q-1 below illustrates the boundaries of the Greater Monterey County IRWM region in relation to the other Central Coast IRWM regions.

Figure Q-1: Greater Monterey County IRWM Region in Context with Other Central Coast IRWM Regions



Q.2.2 Why There are Three Separate IRWM Plans in Monterey County

The Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM region (or “Monterey Peninsula” IRWM region) and a portion of the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM region both lie within Monterey County, as does the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. This section explains why there are three separate IRWM Plans within Monterey County.

When contemplating the formation of a new IRWM region that would address coverage voids in the Salinas River watershed and the Big Sur coastal watersheds (resulting in the expansion of the former Salinas Valley IRWM region into the current Greater Monterey County IRWM region), the Planning Committee considered several potential boundary alignments. These included potential re-alignments of existing IRWM regions, such as incorporating the Big Sur coastal watersheds into the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region, or creating one large IRWM region to cover all of Monterey County. However, those alignments did not make sense given the distinct characteristics and unique circumstances of each of the existing IRWM regions, as explained below.

The regional boundaries that define the three current IRWM Plans within Monterey County—i.e., Greater Monterey County, Pajaro River Watershed, and Monterey Peninsula IRWM Plans—reflect the way in which water resource issues are managed locally and regionally. In Monterey County, this structure is institutionalized through the charters of three water management districts as well as through several subsequent MOUs between those agencies. As the first of those agencies created in the Water Code, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA, known originally as the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) was organized with broad, countywide water resources planning and management authorities. Subsequently, through creation of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), as well as through follow-on MOUs, most water resources planning and management authorities except flood protection were allocated from MCWRA to those agencies within their jurisdictional areas. The three IRWM Plans developed within Monterey County reflect both the jurisdictional boundaries and the cooperative relationships of these three water management agencies.

These regional alignments not only recognize the historical management of water resources in the area but recognize the unique issues and conflicts that distinguish these three IRWM regions. The Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Plan is a collaborative effort by the PVWMA, San Benito County Water District, and Santa Clara Valley Water District. The IRWM planning area encompasses the boundaries of the Pajaro River watershed, which is approximately 1,300 square miles and includes portions of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. The Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Plan partners are all entitled to Central Valley Project (CVP) deliveries and share an interest in improving the system reliability, efficiencies, and operational flexibility of the San Felipe Division of the CVP. The Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions do not receive CVP water and instead depend entirely on local groundwater and surface water sources for their water supply. In addition, flooding is a major source of conflict within the Pajaro River watershed; cooperative efforts to manage flooding have led to the formation of the Pajaro River Flood Prevention Authority, a joint powers authority with representatives from all four counties (the MCWRA is a participating member). These factors distinguish the Pajaro River watershed from the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions and justify them being separate and distinct IRWM regions.

Development of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM Plan has been led by the MPWMD, the Big Sur Land Trust, City of Monterey, the MCWRA, and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA); the Marina Coast Water District has recently joined this RWMG. The Monterey Peninsula IRWM region boundary is based on groundwater basins within the MPWMD boundary (specifically, the Carmel Valley aquifer and the Seaside Groundwater Basin) and

surface watersheds flowing into or through the MPWMD boundaries, including all of the Carmel River and San Jose Creek watersheds. The planning region is approximately 347 square miles and consists of coastal watershed areas in Carmel Bay and south Monterey Bay between (and including) Pt. Lobos in the south and Sand City in the north—a 38-mile stretch of the Pacific coast.

As noted above, the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region is dependent on local rainfall and runoff for its potable water supply, with no connections to water sources outside of the region. Nearly all of the region's water supply comes from the Carmel River, the Carmel Valley aquifer, and from the coastal subareas of the Seaside Groundwater Basin. This common reliance on a shared water supply distinguishes the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region from the larger Monterey County region, which depends primarily on Salinas Valley groundwater (and secondarily on surface water in the Big Sur region) for its water supply sources. In addition, freshwater from the Seaside and Carmel River basins is integrally linked through infrastructure and is used to supply the Monterey Peninsula cities, whereas no similar infrastructure exists between the Seaside and Salinas basins; water exportation from the Salinas Basin is distinctly prohibited by Monterey County ordinance, and no water from the Seaside Basin is exported to the Salinas Basin. For these reasons, the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region is considered a discrete sub-region within Monterey County and has been determined to be an appropriate geographical region for integrated planning, separate from the Greater Monterey County and Pajaro River Watershed IRWM regions.

Q.2.3 How the Greater Monterey County Region Coordinates with Adjacent Regions

The Greater Monterey County IRWM region shares borders with three other IRWM planning regions: the Pajaro River Watershed region to the north, the Monterey Peninsula region, and the San Luis Obispo County region to the south. The boundary divisions are as follows:

- *Border with Pajaro River Watershed IRWM region:* The boundary division between the two regions is marked by the Pajaro River watershed line in Monterey County. The Greater Monterey County region does not include any portion of the Pajaro River watershed, but does overlie a small portion of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin.
- *Border with Monterey Peninsula IRWM region:* The Greater Monterey County region surrounds the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region on all sides, except where the Monterey Peninsula region meets the coast. In relation to the Monterey Peninsula region, the Greater Monterey County region runs north from the MPWMD boundary and includes the City of Marina; runs north of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and includes the areas outside of the Carmel River watershed boundary; runs south from the MPWMD boundary just south of Pt. Lobos; and runs south from the southernmost limit of the San Jose Creek and Carmel River watersheds to the San Luis Obispo County line. The Greater Monterey County IRWM region does not include any portion of the Carmel River or San Jose Creek watersheds.
- *Border with San Luis Obispo County IRWM region:* The boundary division between the Greater Monterey County and the San Luis Obispo County IRWM regions is demarcated by the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county line.

Collaborative efforts have been undertaken to ensure that projects for each of the regions are well understood and coordinated where overlapping interests may exist now and in the future. This section describes how the Greater Monterey County RWMG coordinates IRWM planning efforts with each of these adjacent regions.

Shared Border with San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region

The region for the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan is defined as the County of San Luis Obispo. While the Greater Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County IRWM regions do not overlap, there

are overlapping interests. The Salinas River watershed spans both counties, as do the Nacimiento River and the San Antonio River sub-watersheds. The *San Antonio and Nacimiento Rivers Watershed Management Plan* (October 2008) covers both IRWM regions, and therefore both regions have a shared interest in carrying out the recommended actions of that plan.

Also, while the Nacimiento Reservoir is located within San Luis Obispo County, it is owned and operated by the MCWRA (a RWMG member for the Greater Monterey County region). The MCWRA and the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) have coordinated efforts for implementation of both the Nacimiento Water Project and the Salinas Valley Water Project, both of which utilize water from the Nacimiento Reservoir. The Nacimiento Water Project includes the construction of a pipeline and appurtenant facilities from the existing Nacimiento Reservoir south to the communities of Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, and San Luis Obispo to convey the District's existing water entitlement from the reservoir to areas of use.

Because of this shared use of resources of the Nacimiento Reservoir and the fact that the Salinas River watershed spans both counties, the MCWRA and the District discussed the possibility of shared regional planning. The decision was made, however, to contain the respective IRWM planning regions to within each county. This regional alignment made sense given that the Salinas River watershed is divided near the county boundary into major groundwater basins (the Salinas Valley and the Paso Robles basins), and that the county boundary has historically differentiated management responsibilities for land, watershed, and infrastructure within the two counties. The RWMG for the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan will continue to coordinate with the San Luis Obispo County RWMG on watershed management and water supply issues, and will continue to discuss joint regional planning efforts for the future. Some potential interregional projects between the two regions include:

- *Invasive Aquatic Species Control and Monitoring:* Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties have worked closely over the past several years to monitor for invasive mussels. The goal is to create a sustainable program to inspect all vessels launching at reservoirs in the region to prevent quagga/zebra mussels from becoming established in these critical water supplies. This project is included in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan.
- *Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio:* Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio are manmade reservoirs within the Salinas River Basin. Lake Nacimiento is located in northern San Luis Obispo County and Lake San Antonio is located in Monterey County, but as noted above, both reservoirs are owned and operated by the MCWRA. The watershed feeding Lake Nacimiento is more responsive to rain events, with nearly three times more inflow than Lake San Antonio. At times water releases are made from Lake Nacimiento during the winter months because the lake is at capacity while Lake San Antonio has excess storage available. A project has been proposed to provide a pathway between the lakes in order to redirect water and use it to fill the excess capacity typically available in Lake San Antonio. This would provide additional water storage as well as increased recreational opportunities. This project is included in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan.
- *South-Central California Coast Steelhead:* Several small coastal streams in San Luis Obispo County share the same steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) as the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. Issues in the area south of the Carmel River watershed extending across the county line would be better addressed by having the two IRWM regions working closely together.
- *Paso Robles Groundwater Basin:* More than 33 percent of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin lies within Monterey County, with the remaining portion located within San Luis Obispo County. The MCWRA participates on the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan Steering Committee. There are numerous issues that face and will face the Paso Robles Groundwater

Basin, including increasing agricultural demands, water quality issues, water supply issues (overdrafted basin), and urbanization pressure. The committee is currently discussing possible options for the basin. Opportunities to share experiences, resources, and strategies would provide a win-win situation for both regions.

Shared Border with Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Region

As noted above, the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Plan is a collaborative effort by the PVWMA, San Benito County Water District, and Santa Clara Valley Water District. The water resource issues that exist in the Pajaro River Watershed region are quite distinct to that region, including flooding within the Pajaro River watershed. However, there are certain issues that are common to both regions and that would be suitable for potential interregional projects or programs. These include:

- ***Agricultural Water Quality:*** Agriculture is the predominant land use in both IRWM regions, and consequently agricultural water quality is a major concern on both sides of the border. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board renewed the Agricultural Order (No. R3-2012-0011, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands) in March 2012. The Order requires compliance with water quality standards, and requires those who are subject to the Order to address impacts to water quality by evaluating the effectiveness of management practices (e.g., waste discharge treatment and control measures), and taking action to improve management practices to reduce discharges. The RWMGs for both the Greater Monterey County and the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM regions can coordinate on projects and programs to help growers comply with the Agricultural Order and to help ensure consistent implementation of the Order.
- ***Co-Management of Food Safety and Water Quality:*** With Monterey County's \$4 billion agricultural industry, this is an issue of critical importance for both IRWM regions. The fresh produce of Monterey County is among the healthiest food in the world. Rare outbreaks of illness have been linked to the contamination of leafy greens by pathogens where wildlife was the likely vector. In response, many large buyers have adopted stringent standards for the management of the fields where they source their produce. Some interpretations of these standards conflict with agricultural management practices developed for water quality protection and erosion control, which often include the retention of surface runoff or establishment of non-crop vegetation on field edges (such as filter strips or buffers). Growers report that they are increasingly caught in an untenable position, forced to choose between meeting mandates to improve water quality, or meeting food safety guidelines and contractual requirements. For example, 32 percent of leafy greens growers who responded to a local survey reported removing non-crop vegetation in response to pressure from buyers or auditors (RCD 2007).

Addressing these conflicts is critical to the success and advancement of both regions' IRWM Plans. Many growers and regional experts believe that "co-management" for food safety and environmental protection represents the optimal path forward. Co-management is defined as an approach to minimize microbiological hazards associated with food production while simultaneously conserving soil, water, air, wildlife, and other natural resources. The Greater Monterey County and Pajaro River Watershed RWMGs are considering possible opportunities to coordinate on projects and programs to help resolve barriers that food safety concerns present to implementing water quality, ecological restoration, and flood management projects in both regions' IRWM Plans.

Shared Border with Monterey Peninsula IRWM Region

The primary area where water resource management is shared between the Greater Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula regions is in the vicinity of the Seaside/Salinas River groundwater basin divide in the former Fort Ord military base area (now known as the "Ord Community"). The Seaside Groundwater

Basin is a place of water supply storage and extraction for the Monterey Peninsula, and the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin is a source of water supply for the Ord Community. The former Fort Ord area is almost equally divided geographically between the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions. The Ord Community is under the jurisdiction of several agencies. Water supply is managed by both the MCWRA and the MPWMD, is extracted from both the Seaside Groundwater Basin and the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, and is delivered by the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD), California American Water Company, and several dozen other water distribution systems.

The Seaside Groundwater Basin and other portions of the former Fort Ord area can provide a significant opportunity for stakeholders in both IRWM planning regions to collaborate and coordinate on projects of interest to both regions. Of particular note is a major water supply and recycled water distribution project that has been proposed for funding under the IRWM Grant Program, with potential long-term benefits for both regions. A combination of factors—including a lack of sufficient permanent diversion rights from the Carmel River, pumping reduction requirements resulting from the Seaside Groundwater Basin adjudication, increased water demands from planned redevelopment of the former Fort Ord military base, and increasing population—has resulted in the need for over 25,000 acre-feet/year (AFY) in new water supplies for northern Monterey County (RMC 2010). A portfolio of possible water supply projects, called the Monterey Regional Water Supply Program, has been formulated as part of a regional collaborative process to address pending regional water supply shortages and to develop a regionally supported solution.

The Regional Water Supply Program—with projects spanning the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions—would link water supplies in the Salinas Valley with supplies to the Monterey Peninsula. The program would be implemented in phases and includes two projects that impact both the Greater Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions: a proposed regional desalination project for the Monterey Bay area, and a project called the “Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project” (RUWAP). These projects are described more fully in the Region Description section of this IRWM Plan (in sub-section B.5.5.a, Locally Proposed Solutions to Local Water Supply Issues).

Funds were requested in September 2010 through the Round 1 Planning Grant program, collaboratively from the Greater Monterey County IRWM region and the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region, to explore and describe the overlapping interests and jurisdictional boundaries between the two regions, focusing specifically on the former Fort Ord area and including “joint” projects such as those proposed in the Regional Water Supply Program. The requested funds were granted and awarded to the Monterey Peninsula RWMG, which is now responsible for conducting the task and producing a section that will be incorporated into both regions’ IRWM Plans (the section will appear as a subsection of this Coordination chapter when completed). The section will describe existing and anticipated water supply needs and the various jurisdictions in this boundary region.

It is important to note that the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions share common interests beyond those that exist in the border Ord Community area. For example, stormwater passes across the boundaries of both regions. The Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program covers both the Monterey Peninsula cities and unincorporated areas of Monterey County for the purposes of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II stormwater permit, and as such covers geographic areas that are included in both IRWM Plans. Additional work is needed on the regional stormwater program. The Canyon Del Rey watershed is a good example of a drainage that lies within both regions. An upgraded drainage study has been planned, however, existing funds do not appear sufficient to implement any project that might come out of this study. The Greater Monterey County RWMG will continue to coordinate with the Monterey Peninsula RWMG on common issues such as this.

Q.2.4 Participation of Greater Monterey County RWMG Members in Other IRWM Efforts

Four members of the Greater Monterey County RWMG—the Big Sur Land Trust, MCWRA, the MRWPCA, and the MCWD—are also participating members of the RWMG for the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM region. The involvement of these entities in both IRWM Plan efforts makes sense since both IRWM regions fall squarely within the jurisdictional boundaries and/or geographic areas of interest of all four entities, and projects included in both plans concern all of these organizations. Note, however, that the MPWMD is the lead agency in the Monterey Peninsula IRWM Plan effort, and as such the Big Sur Land Trust, MCWRA, MRWPCA, and the MCWD have played supporting roles in that planning effort. Since there is no one lead agency for the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan effort, all members of the RWMG are expected to play a “leading” role.

Q.2.5 Coordination between the Six Central Coast IRWM Regions

The Central Coast IRWM Funding Area is diverse, with geographically distinct regions. Some of the established IRWM regions have common/overlapping water-related interests, but most water issues are more effectively managed within each of the individual regions.

Representatives from each of the six IRWM regions within the Central Coast Funding Area meet periodically to discuss issues related to IRWM planning and funding considerations. Discussions regarding regional cooperation began in February 2007, with the lead agencies for each of these planning regions agreeing to a set of principles to guide the funding region in seeking Proposition 50 funds (see Appendix E, Statement of Principles).

For the purposes of coordinated planning, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary compared and summarized the six IRWM Plans in the Central Coast Funding Area (MBNMS 2008a). The report found many commonalities in water management objectives and issues, though distinct differences exist. Three out of the six regions receive at least some imported water (the Pajaro River Watershed region receives about 23 percent of its water supply from the CVP, and both the San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County regions each receive a small portion of their water supply from the State Water Project). The Greater Monterey County, Monterey Peninsula, and Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM regions are all dependent on local rainfall and runoff for their water supply, with no connections to water sources outside of their respective regions. Groundwater is an important water supply source for all six regions, and all but the Monterey Peninsula region experience a significant problem with seawater intrusion.

Agriculture is a major land use in all of the six Central Coast IRWM regions. Water quality issues are similar across all of the regions, though to varying degrees. The most significant and serious water quality problems tend to be seawater intrusion, nitrates, sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants (with the exception of the Monterey Peninsula region, which seems to experience fewer water quality problems than the other regions).

Not surprisingly, all six IRWM planning regions have quite similar goals and objectives in terms of water supply, water quality, flood management, and environmental protection and enhancement, with minor differences reflecting regional needs and priorities. All regions aim to improve water supply reliability and protect against drought; almost all of the regions contain objectives regarding maximizing water conservation and recycled water use. Similarly, all regions aim to protect and improve water quality (including surface water, groundwater, stormwater, wastewater, recycled water, and/or coastal waters), and to meet or exceed all applicable regulatory standards. Regarding environmental protection, all regions aim to identify opportunities for enhancement and/or restoration of natural resources and to minimize adverse effects from water management activities.

Commonalities are also evident in the types of high priority projects chosen for IRWM grant funding. The differences that exist between regions reflect region-specific needs and issues. At the risk of being simplistic: the Northern Santa Cruz County region seems to place greatest emphasis on water supply strategies; Pajaro River Watershed on groundwater management strategies; Monterey Peninsula on water quality strategies; San Luis Obispo County on water quality and water supply strategies; Santa Barbara County equally across several strategies (mainly, water quality, water supply, wastewater treatment, and environmental protection); and the Greater Monterey County region on water supply/groundwater management, water quality, and environmental protection strategies (as reflected by the number of objectives under each goal category).

Table Q-1 below provides a summary of shared interests that exist between the six Central Coast IRWM regions. The table also shows potential opportunities for interregional projects and programs. Representatives from the six IRWM regions continue to communicate on an ongoing basis regarding IRWM planning efforts and water-related issues on the Central Coast, as well as potential opportunities for interregional projects such as those listed below.

Table Q-1: Central Coast IRWM Regions: Shared Interests and Opportunities for Interregional Coordination

Objective	Key Issues	Strategies	Potential Project Examples
Water Quality	Agriculture Water Quality: High concentrations of nutrients, pesticides and sediment are known pollutants in certain watersheds with agricultural development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient management • Irrigation management • Education • Integrated pest mgmt • Food safety efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit Coordination • Watershed Working Groups • Ranchette Series Model • Expand Regional Mobile Lab
	Urban Water Quality: High concentrations of nutrients, indicator bacteria and metals are known pollutants in watersheds with urban development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce runoff • Education • Integrated pest mgmt • Best management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit Coordination • Low Impact Development (LID) • First Flush monitoring • Green Business Program
	Special Protected Areas: All planning regions along the coast have areas either designated as Marine Protected Areas, Critical Coastal Areas or Areas of Special Biological Significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Watershed assessments • Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coast and Oceans Regional Round Table • California Coastal Commission (CCC) Critical Coastal Areas Program • Historical Ecology
	Sediment and Erosion: Erosion from roads, agriculture and unstable stream banks carry pollutants and are detrimental to aquatic habitat and organisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation management • Stream bank stabilization • Redesign of rural roads • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCD Rural Roads program • Roads Maintenance Guide • Implementation of Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs)
	Data Coordination and Management: A coordinated effort of data synthesis, assessment, management and accessibility is important to determine effectiveness of efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make data comparable, accessible, and useful • Develop consistent evaluation tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis, Analysis and Management (SAM) Program • Upload of data to the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) • Regional Web

			Information Station • Central Coast Wetland Group
Water Quality/ Water Supply	Groundwater Management: Groundwater is an important source of water for much of the Central Coast, but is threatened or already affected by saltwater intrusion, salinity, and overdraft in many areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conjunctive management • Recharge area protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pajaro Watershed Desalination Feasibility Study • RWQCB LID Strategy
Water Supply	Water Availability: Water needs exceed available supply throughout the Central Coast for municipal, domestic, and agricultural use as well as environmental protection. Expected water demand will increase in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desalination • Water Recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Planning Approach • Research • Explore new technologies • Reclaimed water • Information exchange • Import advanced technology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand conservation programs • Expand rebate programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional conservation programs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recharge, restoration, and enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater mgmt to restore naturally functioning systems • Seaside Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)
Ecosystem Protection	Fisheries Enhancement: Many Central Coast streams provide habitat for federally threatened or endangered species such as coho, steelhead, and the red-legged frog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, improve or re-establish habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing fish passage barriers • Watershed assessments • Habitat restoration
Flood Management	Flood Management: All regions have areas prone to flooding and development within flood plains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland restoration • Improve existing levees • Hydromodification • Central Coast Wetland Group • Stream gauges

An additional issue—and an increasingly urgent issue—that is particularly suited to an interregional approach is climate change and the potential impacts on water management systems on the Central Coast. Some preliminary attempts have been made to initiate a Central Coast region-wide climate change impact analysis. Sharing information and resources, coordinating efforts, and potentially creating a region-wide database would increase efficiencies, save money and staff time, and most likely result in increased coordination, collaboration, and communication between the regions regarding climate change projects, actions, and overall planning. The Central Coast IRWM regions will continue to discuss the possibilities for collaborating on climate change planning for the Central Coast, as well as coordinating on other potential projects and programs mentioned above.

Q.3 COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES

The Greater Monterey County RWMG is composed of a diverse mix of agencies, organizations, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and interest groups, including several government agencies and

districts. The participation of these agencies and local districts on the RWMG enables the RWMG to coordinate the IRWM planning effort closely with the mission of these agencies and helps to avoid regulatory or other conflicts in either the planning or the implementation stage of the IRWM Plan. Greater Monterey County RWMG agency/district members include:

- **Federal Agencies:**
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- **Local/Regional Government and Districts:**
Castroville Community Services District
City of Salinas
City of Soledad
Marina Coast Water District
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

Additionally, the Greater Monterey County RWMG has entered into extensive coordination with federal, state, and local agencies for the planning process and for implementation of projects included in the IRWM Plan. The major federal, state, and local agencies that have been involved are described below.

Q.3.1 Coordination with Federal Agencies

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

The RWMG communicates with NMFS primarily in an advisory capacity. NMFS is also involved in IRWM Plan project implementation through permitting requirements. The MCWRA is currently working with NMFS to implement its project, "Salinas River Fisheries Enhancement Project," and has worked closely with NMFS in the past on issues associated with the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP), including evaluation of impacts and appropriate mitigations for endangered species that may be impacted by the SVWP.

NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

The MBNMS is an active participating member of the RWMG as well as a project proponent for several implementation projects in the IRWM Plan (including "Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions," which is currently being implemented through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant funds). The MBNMS's representative on the RWMG helps coordinate the IRWM planning process with the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program, and works to ensure that projects included in the IRWM Plan are consistent with MBNMS regulations and programs. The MBNMS works with project proponents and other stakeholders in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region to assist with water quality information and monitoring and to promote implementation of the MBNMS's Action Plans.

US Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

The COE is involved in the IRWM planning process primarily in its capacity as a permitting agency. A 404 Permit from the COE, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, may be required for construction associated with some projects in the IRWM Plan.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The RWMG coordinates with the NRCS primarily through the implementation of agricultural water

quality and water conservation projects through the IRWM Plan. For example, the RCD of Monterey County will be collaborating with the NRCS on its project, “Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program.” NRCS conservation and engineering staff will participate in field trials and will provide equipment, lab resources, time and critical technical guidance to the RCD project team.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS serves as an advisor to the RWMG and is largely involved in the IRWM planning process in its capacity as a permitting agency. The USFWS also provides technical assistance to project proponents. For example, the USFWS will be providing technical program guidance, site assessment, and property owner assistance to the RCD of Monterey County on its project, “Livestock and Land,” and will be partnering with the RCD with a stockpond-improvement grant to meet shared program goals.

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

MCWRA received grant funding from the US EPA to complete a regional water management plan for the Salinas Valley. That plan has evolved and has been expanded into this IRWM Plan for the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. The US EPA is signatory to the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

US Forest Service

Wildfire management is an issue of critical importance to water and natural resource managers in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region, particularly given the region’s dependence on surface water and reservoir storage, the predominance of high quality ecological habitats in the region, and the prediction of increased fires as a result of climate change. The Greater Monterey County RWMG coordinates with the US Forest Service as part of the FireScape Monterey planning effort. FireScape Monterey is a planning effort that promotes protection of both life and property affected by wildfire and healthy resilient ecosystems through collaborative stewardship. FireScape Monterey was initiated and is co-led by the US Forest Service, in collaboration with 27 organizations and local residents, and focuses in the Big Sur Coastal Range with the potential to expand throughout Monterey County.

Q.3.2 Coordination with State Agencies

California Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission is an active participant in the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning process, regularly attending and participating in the monthly RWMG meetings and providing “in-house expertise” on all matters related to the County’s Local Coastal Program (LCP) and other statewide coastal issues. LCPs are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission. Monterey County’s LCP was completed in 1987, adopted by the Monterey County Planning Department and approved by the Coastal Commission, and consists of four plans for the County’s designated coastal areas: the North County Land Use Plan, the Del Monte Forest Land Use Plan, the Carmel Land Use Plan, and the Big Sur Coast Land Use Plan. Several projects in the IRWM Plan are located within the coastal zone. For example, the Central Coast Wetlands Group’s “Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration” implements parts of the Moro Cojo Slough Wetland Management Plan, which is part of the Local Coastal Plan for Monterey County.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

The CDFG has been involved in the IRWM planning process in an advisory capacity, as well as on an individual project basis through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permitting. For example, MCWRA has worked closely with the CDFG on issues associated with the SVWP, including coordination for a Stream Alteration Agreement and issues associated with endangered species that may be impacted by the SVWP.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Caltrans is involved in the IRWM planning process mainly through project implementation. For example, the Central Coast Wetlands Group will be collaborating with Caltrans on their project, “Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration,” to source sand for dune reconstruction and mulch for weed control.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

The Greater Monterey County RWMG cooperates with DWR on all aspects of the IRWM planning process in accordance with the IRWM Program Guidelines. The Greater Monterey County’s regional representative at DWR regularly attends the monthly RWMG meetings, and is the grant manager for the Round 1 IRWM Planning Grant and Implementation Grant. The IRWM Plan Coordinator communicates with the DWR regional representative on a regular basis regarding requirements of the program. In addition, MCWRA had been in extensive contact with DWR’s Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) regarding the evaluation of the modification to the Nacimiento Dam Spillway and the proposed changes in the operating rule curve associated with the SVWP.

California Natural Resources Agency

The RWMG coordinates with the California Natural Resources Agency mainly through its involvement with the Agency’s California Adaptation Strategy process. The California Adaptation Strategy summarizes climate change impacts in California and recommends adaptation strategies. Cal-Adapt is a web-based tool developed by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Energy Commission that enables city and county planners, government agencies, and the public to identify potential climate change risks in specific areas throughout California. In developing the Climate Change section for this IRWM Plan, the RWMG reviewed the California Adaptation Strategy and utilized Cal-Adapt extensively to determine climate change impacts in the Greater Monterey County region and to develop a preliminary adaptation strategy for the region. The RWMG will continue to stay involved in the California Natural Resources Agency’s California Adaptation Strategy process to help shape the IRWM Plan as more climate change tools and data are generated.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3 (RWQCB)

The RWMG has made a concerted effort to incorporate the RWQCB’s Water Quality Priorities (July 2011, see Appendix H) as well as other Regional Board directives and initiatives into the IRWM Plan and planning process. Many of the IRWM Plan projects address priorities of the Central Coast Basin Plan and the RWQCB’s Water Management Initiative chapter, as well as other regional plans such as the Central Coast Regional Toxic Hot Spot Cleanup Plan. RWMG members and project proponents work closely with the RWQCB on an individual basis to develop various plans and to implement projects. For example, MCWRA has worked closely with the RWQCB in development of the Nitrate Management Plan and other programs, including non-point source, TMDL, and other management programs. The City of Soledad has worked closely with the RWQCB in developing the Water Recycling/Reclamation Project.

California State Parks

California State Parks serves as an advisor to the RWMG, and also coordinates with the RWMG through the FireScope Monterey planning process. The RWMG is proposing to implement two projects that will be located within the jurisdiction of California State Parks, including the Central Coast Wetlands Group’s “Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration” project, and “Big Sur River Steelhead Enhancement Project” which has been proposed by State Parks. State Parks is consulted whenever projects are proposed for implementation within their jurisdiction.

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The SWRCB serves in an advisory capacity to the RWMG, and the RWMG works to ensure that projects

included in the IRWM Plan comply with State Board regulations. MCWRA has been in extensive contact with the SWRCB Division of Water Rights regarding the status of development of a solution to the groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion issues. In addition, the RWMG is proposing to implement several projects through the IRWM Plan that address priorities of the SWRCB programs, including for example the State's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (addressed by the Central Coast Wetlands Group's "Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration," "Study of Environmental Services from Nutrient Reducing BMPs" and "Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough Phase II" projects, Ecology Action's "Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program," and by the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's project, "Integrated Restoration: Beneficial Reuse of Sediment to Restore Tidal Marsh and Agricultural Stormwater Treatment by a Native Grassland Buffer").

Q.3.3 Coordination with Local Agencies, Governments, and Districts

County of Monterey – Public Works Department, Planning Department, Redevelopment & Housing Office

The RWMG works with various departments within the County of Monterey on projects that involve land use planning or development permits, as described further in the Relation to Land Use Planning section of this IRWM Plan. Many project proponents for implementation projects included in the IRWM Plan have coordinated with the Public Works, Planning Department, or Redevelopment Agency on site plans, permits, and other requirements and information needs for their projects. Project proponents are required to ensure that their projects are consistent with the Monterey County General Plan and with local ordinances (as applicable). For example, the MCWRA is collaborating with the Public Works Department on County Right-of-Way and soil stability for "Coastal Dedicated Monitoring Well Drilling" project in the IRWM Plan.

Fort Ord Reuse Authority

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) is responsible for the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord military base, a 45-square mile/28,000-acre facility. Following a competitive selection process in 1997, the FORA Board approved the MCWD, a RWMG member, as the purveyor to own and operate the water and wastewater collection systems on the former Fort Ord. Through MCWD's connection with FORA, the RWMG remains informed of the latest developments in the Ord Community, an important "border region" between the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions.

Monterey County Health Department

The Monterey County Health Department is responsible for implementing and enforcing the California Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure small public water supply systems deliver a reliable and adequate supply of water that is pure, wholesome, and potable to the users at all times. As the permitting agency for public water systems in Monterey County, the Health Department is integrally involved with water resource management decisions in the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning region. Besides its role as a permitting agency, the Monterey County Health Department is a good source for water quality data and information, and provides assistance to water users to help them comply with regulations and resolve water quality/quantity problems. For example, the County of Monterey Redevelopment & Housing Office is collaborating with the Health Department on its IRWM Plan project, "Well Replacement and Pipeline – San Lucas Water District." The Health Department has been involved in the San Lucas Water District's on-going efforts to resolve the nitrate and total dissolved solids (TDS) contamination issues in its public water supply. The Health Department will be collaborating with the Redevelopment & Housing Office in the design and review of the plans for construction of the test well and the subsequent sampling and testing program, the construction plans for the final production well and pipeline, and the final production testing of the completed well.

Monterey County Parks Department

The Monterey County Parks Department is involved in the IRWM planning process primarily in regards to projects that take place on County Parks properties. For example, the MCWRA and Monterey County Parks are collaborating on an implementation project included in the IRWM Plan entitled the “Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Project,” which will take place at Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio. Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio are owned and operated by the MCWRA; recreation on the lakes and on properties owned by the MCWRA is administered by Monterey County Parks. The MCWRA and Monterey County Parks have determined that the threat of aquatic invasive species (specifically zebra and quagga mussels) represents a serious risk to local water conveyance systems and the general welfare of the public. The purpose of the project is to provide a response to this threat by imposing an inspection process at the lakes with a program that assesses and manages the risks without shutting the waters to all recreational boating.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

The MCWRA is an active participating member of the RWMG, and a project proponent for several projects included in the IRWM Plan. The MCWRA is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing water supply and water quality, as well as providing flood protection, in the County of Monterey. As such, the MCWRA has produced many of the water resource and flood management plans that have been used as a basis for this IRWM Plan. The MCWRA also provides “in-house expertise” for the RWMG on all matters related to water supply and flood management in the County. Note that MCWRA had authored the Salinas Valley IRWM Functionally Equivalent Plan, which this Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan is based on, and now supersedes.

Municipalities

The Greater Monterey County RWMG includes representatives from two municipalities in the region—the City of Salinas and the City of Soledad. These RWMG members help provide a municipal perspective to the IRWM planning process, and generally represent the interests of other municipalities within the planning region. Project proponents with implementation projects in the IRWM Plan are required to ensure that their projects are consistent with City General Plans and local ordinances (as applicable). Staff from the City planning or public works departments are consulted by project proponents for technical advice and guidance regarding development projects within City boundaries.

Resource Conservation Districts

The RCD of Monterey County is both a participating RWMG member and a project proponent for projects included in the IRWM Plan. The RCD also assists other project proponents in the region with data compilation and outreach to landowners, and provides “in-house expertise” on matters related to agriculture and water quality management measures. As noted in Section Q.1 above, the RWMG is coordinating with the Central Coast RCDs to utilize the new Conservation Action Tracker database as a way to track water resource projects within the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. The Conservation Action Tracker database is a data system for tracking land-use management improvements in the Central Coast region. It will be implemented by the Central Coast RCDs and project partners of the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

TAMC is involved in the IRWM planning process mainly through project implementation. Project proponents will coordinate with TAMC as needed on various aspects of implementation. For example, the Monterey County Department of Public Works will be collaborating with TAMC on their “Las Lomas Drive Storm Drain Improvements Project.”